

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Anthony J. Janiuk on 4/8/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1, (Amended) A coupling element, comprising:

a male sealing element having a first end, second end, and a longitudinal axis extending between said first end and said second end, wherein said male sealing element has a generally cylindrical shape, wherein said male sealing element defines a fluid passageway therethrough for the transmission of fluid, wherein said male sealing element is slideably coupled to a ferrule, wherein said first end defines a conical sealing surface, wherein said conical sealing surface has a mismatched angle to a female sealing element, wherein said female sealing element defines a complementary conical geometry and said male conical surface extending beyond a proximal portion of said female element; and

a biasing element disposed between a retaining ring and said ferrule located within a cavity in said female sealing element for biasing said first end into direct abutting contact with said female sealing element with a biasing force sufficient to form

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a fluid-tight seal between said first end and said female sealing element wherein said retaining ring assists in maintaining the integrity of said biasing element and said ferrule and said retaining ring provides a surface for said biasing element to be biased against when an axial force is applied.

Claim 10, (Amended) A method for forming a fluid-tight, high pressure seal, comprising:

providing a male sealing element having a first end, second end, and a longitudinal axis extending between said first end and said second end, wherein said male sealing element has a generally cylindrical shape, wherein said male sealing element defines a fluid passageway therethrough for the transmission of fluid, wherein said male sealing element is slideably coupled to a ferrule, wherein said first end defines a conical sealing surface, wherein said conical sealing surface has a mismatched angle to a female sealing element, wherein said female sealing element defines a complementary conical geometry and said male conical surface extending beyond a proximal portion of said female sealing element, and

providing a biasing element disposed between a retaining ring and said ferrule located within a cavity in said female sealing element for biasing said first end into direct abutting contact with said female sealing element with a biasing force sufficient to form a fluid-tight seal between said first end and said female sealing element arranged such that said retaining ring assists in maintaining the integrity of said biasing element and said ferrule and said retaining ring provides a surface for said biasing element to be biased against when an axial force is applied; and

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applying a compression force in an axial direction of the male sealing element toward said female sealing element sufficient to form a fluid-tight, high pressure seal.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M. Dunwoody whose telephone number is 571-272-7080. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Aaron M Dunwoody/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679

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